

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On Page 27, First Full Paragraph

Thus, according to the second variation, the etching stop layer [19B] **19C** having a super lattice structure is formed under the p-type second cladding layer **20** to be etched, whereby it is possible to control the thickness (remaining thickness) of the p-type first cladding layer **18** with a high precision. As a result, it is possible to obtain a desired thickness, i.e., an optimal value, for the thickness of the p-type first cladding layer **18**. Therefore, the light confinement efficiency in the MQW active layer **15** is significantly improved. This is because of the prevention of an etching damage to the MQW active layer **15**.

On Page 30, Fourth Paragraph continuing on Page 31

As illustrated in FIG. 10, during the etching process on the p-type second cladding layer **20**, which is made of p-type $\text{Al}_{0.07}\text{Ga}_{0.93}\text{N}$, the wavelength of the detected PL light is about 350 nm in terms of the peak wavelength at room temperature. Then, as the etching process proceeds and the etching surface comes closer to the etching stop layer **19A**, which is made of p-type $\text{Al}_{0.10}\text{Ga}_{0.90}\text{N}$, the wavelength of the detected PL wavelength decreases to about 345 nm, which is shorter than that for the p-type second cladding layer **20**. This is greater than the Al composition of Al of the p-type second cladding layer [72] **20**, is described above.

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For example, in a case where a 4-crystal x-ray diffraction (XRD) apparatus is used, the diffraction angle (2θ) from the orientation (0002) plane, which is detected during an etching process on the p-type second cladding layer **20** made of p-type $\text{Al}_{0.07}\text{Ga}_{0.93}\text{N}$, is about 34.7° . Then, as the etching process proceeds and the etching surface comes closer to the etching stop layer **19A**, which is made of p-type $\text{Al}_{0.10}\text{Ga}_{0.90}\text{N}$, the diffraction angle (2θ) is detected to be about 34.8° . This is because the Al composition of the etching layer **19A** is greater than the Al

composition of Al of the p-type second cladding layer [72] 20, as described above. Incidentally, the diffraction angle from the (0002) plane of GaN in this case is 34.6°.

On Page 41, Second Full Paragraph

First, as in the first embodiment, a cap layer **41** made of p-type $\text{Al}_{0.15}\text{Ga}_{0.85}\text{N}$ is grown, as illustrated in FIG. [11] 13, by supplying TMA and TMG as group III materials, an NH_3 gas as a group V material, and a Cp_2Mg gas a p-type dopant, onto the substrate, while setting the temperature inside the reactor to about 1000° C and using hydrogen as a carrier gas.

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